



UAS gets violence prevention grant

By Alex Marvel
The Whalesong

“I’ve definitely felt a little unsafe around campus. Especially when I’m walking down to campus for a night class, the lighting isn’t the best,” said Erin Gora, when asked about how safe she feels on campus and in housing. “I tend to err on the side of caution, because you never know what could happen.”

Gora brings light to an issue that UAS currently finds itself trying to solve - how UAS can play a role in preventing crimes against women, a problem that Alaska has struggled with for years.

The Campus Violence Prevention Project (CVPP) just might be the solution that UAS is looking for. The CVPP is a \$200,000 Federal Grant that will work to raise awareness about women’s issues and increase the level of response when an issue pertaining to sexual and violent crimes against women occurs on campus.

One of the CVPP’s main goals would be to “offer formal educa-

tion and prevention training for all incoming students, faculty, and staff regarding domestic violence, and sexual crimes against women,” said Christopher Washko, the acting Residence Hall Coordinator, and the person behind the application for the grant.

The CVPP would offer support networks and educational programming to all UAS students in the Juneau and Sitka areas and would employ the services of the Juneau Police Department, Love Inc, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the District Attorneys office.

“It’s a two-year grant that we would use to raise more awareness about an issue that has plagued Alaska for years,” said Washko, who before writing the application for the grant had to read over 150 pages of statistics about Alaska’s history with crimes against women.

Alaska is currently the state with the highest rate of rape in the country, which is 2.4 times the national average, according to the Dept. of Justice,

See Women’s safety, Pg. 6



Photo by Daniel Buck

A beautiful sunrise above Auke Bay kisses the morning sky.

Mercury in fish can cause brain damage

By Sandra Galeana
The Whalesong

Unlike Uncle Fester from the Addams Family, who enjoyed digesting the occasional mercury thermometer, the American public generally wants to avoid mercury. However, mercury is infiltrating the American diet through seafood: fish and shellfish.

Mercury is an element that is created naturally due to industrial activity.

Mercury is released into the atmosphere by erosion of soil, volcanoes, and forest fires. The mercury then rains down and seeps into rivers and oceans. Once mercury hits these bodies of water, bacteria transform mercury into methylmercury. This is an organic form of mercury and is hazardous to the health. methylmercury is then absorbed by fish and shellfish and in turn

See Mercury, Pg. 5



Nalgene
Pg. 2



Walmart
is coming to
Juneau
Pg. 4



Ice
climbing
Pg. 9

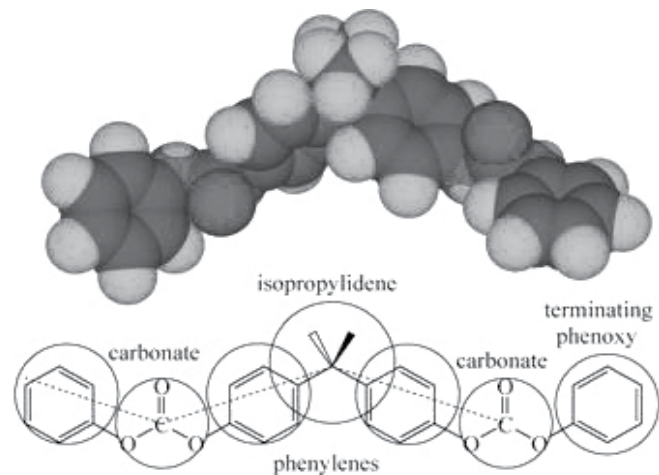


“Nanny McPhee”
Pg. 10

Water bottles could be a health hazard

By Jennifer Scott
The Whalesong

There's something lurking in your water bottle. Something that chemical companies say is safe, but thousands of scientists and over 70 years of evidence say you should be worried about. The culprit is Bisphenol-A, and it is found in many of the products we use everyday.



Bisphenol-A (BPA), for those of you who are chemistry-phobic, is a building block of polycarbonate plastics, such as the kind in your Nalgene and baby bottles, Styrofoam cups, dental sealants, and it is also used as a fire retardant.

BPA acts as a hormone and disrupts the body's endocrine system. It has been shown to increase rates of breast cancer, miscarriage, behavioral and neurological disorders, diabetes, and decrease sperm counts in wildlife, lab animals, and humans.

According to Nalge Nunc International, the makers of Nalgene products, "There is absolutely no danger to humans," and "any amount of BPA consumers may encounter is far below the Environmental Protection Agency's safe level."

But Theo Colborn, a scientist, author, and pio-

neer with over 30 years of experience in the world of endocrine disruption believes that BPA "is the most dangerous chemical currently available on the market" and that "smaller doses than are currently tested by the EPA have shown huge increases in abnormal breast tissues leading to breast cancer in lab animals."

According to Colborn, the most at-risk populations are pregnant woman and their children, because if endocrine disruption occurs during a child's development, the effects are present throughout their lifetime.

So, what can you do to protect yourself and your family? Colborn and other scientists say there are alternatives to using plastics such as Nalgene. The best alternative is to use glass instead of plastic wherever possible, but many companies such as Klean Kanteen, Sigg, and MSR make aluminum water bottles that are strong, lightweight, just as practical as Nalgene and can also be recycled when you are done with them.

If you choose to continue using your Nalgene bottle, the white, opaque Nalgene bottles are safer than the transparent ones, but you should replace it every six months and only use mild soap and cold water to clean it out. Never use chemicals such as bleach, or heat any type of plastic, because this can cause large amounts of chemicals to leach.

You can also check



Some plastics that we use every day such as our Nalgene bottles can possibly cause serious health hazards.

out some information from www.ourstolenfuture.org, a website created by Colborn which is devoted to the study of Bisphenol-A and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals we come into contact with everyday. 🐾

Hechtel will speak on safety in bear country

John S. Sonin
The Whalesong

Whether it's a personal concern for safety, a natural desire to understand one's environment or just a plain thirst for knowledge, the UAS-sponsored "Science for Alaska" lecture series will provide you with answers. The series will be offered Monday evenings in February at 7:30 p.m. at Centennial Hall.

As many of us have found, bears just emerging from their long winter's nap can sometimes surprise even the most alert foot soldier. Their sudden appearances on our travel routes often catch us off-guard. John Hechtel, wildlife biologist for the Alaska De-

partment of Fish and Game, will speak to these concerns and others on Feb. 6, with his lecture entitled "Safety in Bear Country: The Science and the Nonsense."

Health conscious worldly types and those wary of pandemic corridors may find that Douglas Causey, Professor of Biology and Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies at UAA, has news of interest for them. In his lecture on Feb. 13, entitled "Avian Influenza: Alaska at the Crossroads," Causey will give us an updated summary on the march of this disease.

On the following Monday, Feb. 20, Elena Suleimani, Research Analyst at the Geophysical Institute, UAF, will be addressing the all too parti-

cular natural catastrophe— especially with the recent rumble and belching of Mount Augustine near the Kenai Peninsula—of the next hydrosphere reaction to these planetary arousals with her discussion, "Surviving a Tsunami: Is Alaska Ready for the Next Big Wave?"

Concluding the series on Feb. 27, then—for what lecture series on Science for Alaska would be complete without it—Hans Nielsen, Professor of Geophysics at the UAF, Geophysical Institute will be divulging the secrets of the Aurora Borealis in his talk entitled, "Mirror Images: Exploring Auroras at Each of the Poles."

For those interested, this year's "Science for Alaska" lecture series,

which is offered and coordinated by the Geophysical Institute at UAF, is free to the public. If any further information is required, interested parties can call UAS at (907) 796-6350 or go on-line at www.scienceforalaska.com.



Campus Calendar

"The Flood of prints has turned reading into a process of gulping rather than savoring." -Warren Chappell



Photo by Daniel Buck,
www.danielbuckphotography.com

Feb. 5, 1:30 Super Bowl Sunday Party, REC Center

Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m., Science for AK, Safety in Bear Country, Centennial Hall

Feb 10-11, Alaska Amphibian Conference, Egan Lecture Hall

Feb. 11, Noon, Polar Bear Plunge, Auke Bay Harbor

Feb. 12, Winterfest Week

Feb. 12, 3-5 p.m., Childrens' Valentine-Making Party, Lodge

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Science for AK, Avian Influenza

Feb. 14, Valentine's Day

Feb. 14, Application deadline for UAS

scholarships

Feb. 15, Graduation application deadline for spring

Feb. 15, Application deadline for UA Foundation scholarships

Feb. 15, 3 p.m., Ice cream social, Mourant Cafe

Feb. 15-17, Board of Regents meeting in Juneau

Feb. 16-17, Banff Festival of Mountain Films, Centennial Hall

Feb. 25, 9:00 p.m. Mardi Gras dance at the REC Center

Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., Volleyball, REC Center

If you would like to see your photo in this spot, please email it to us in jpeg format at uaswhalesong@yahoo.com

Let us know what's going on in your corner of campus! Send your calendar events and birthdays you want announced to uaswhalesong@yahoo.com

Eaglecrest is finally open

By Jess Coleman
The Whalesong


It never seemed that it would happen, but finally Eaglecrest ski area is open. Thursday, Jan., 27 marked their opening day, in what seems to be a trend of late opening dates.

At the time of opening Eaglecrest had 24 inches of snow on the base and 53 inches on top and the snow continued to fall. Most of the runs are open even though signs of the mountain are still peeking through the snow pack.

Eaglecrest is located on Douglas Island about a 25 minute drive from UAS. They boast 1400 feet of vertical drop, with 31 runs, spanning 640 acres of ski able terrain. Eaglecrest also offers other options such as Nordic loops for you cross country enthusiasts, as well as a tubing hill for the young ones. If you're just looking for a day out but not looking to exercise they have a comfortable lodge complete with food service options.

Lift ticket prices are \$32 for a full-day pass and \$28 for a half day. Student government has purchased full-day tickets at a discount for UAS students. The discount tickets are available for \$20 at the bookstore.

Eaglecrest is a great mountain with very diverse terrain that can challenge even some of the most experienced skiers or snowboarders. There are not many ski areas in the world that offer ocean views and hometown hospitality for such a great price.

<http://www.skijuneau.com/> 



Above: UAS student dives off mountain at Eaglecrest, which opened on Thursday Jan. 27.

Right: Snow plow clears Eaglecrest area in order to prepare for the season's opening.



The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Opinion

"Advertisements contain the only truth to be relied on in a newspaper." Thomas Jefferson

Don't believe Wal-mart's lies

By Daniel Buck
The Whalesong

Ever since Kmart moved out of Juneau three years ago, there has been discussion about having a Wal-Mart come to town, filling the vacuum of our consumerism-driven lives. Now plans are ready, and Wal-Mart is set to open in one year, with Home Depot not too far behind. These corporations promise good jobs and cheap merchandise. Don't believe the lies.

Wal-Mart has a long-standing record of unethical business practices and policies. It has come to epitomize the corporate juggernaut that has dominated the 20th century and has found a new breeding ground in the 21st. They believe in profit above anything else, and opening as many stores as possible around the world. Last time I checked, growth for the sake of growth was the

basis of cancer cells. And as this new cancer spreads to Juneau, most are welcoming Wal-Mart to our community, not stopping to think of what the effects of Wal-Mart could be.

Wal-Mart is openly anti-union and anti-worker. According to the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), the average Wal-Mart employee makes \$7.50 an hour, and with working an average of 34 hours a week, makes only \$12,000 a year - below the federal poverty line for a family of two.

Even making a meager salary each year, as opposed to the \$17 million a year salary of Wal-Mart's CEO, workers have had to sue Wal-Mart for back pay. Currently there are 39 lawsuits against Wal-Mart for back pay amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. In 2001 Wal-Mart had to pay

\$50 million to over 69,000 workers in Colorado for owed salaries.

Wal-Mart is also known to have poor healthcare options for their employees. Since most of their employees work part time, they are not eligible for healthcare benefits. If part-time workers are given the option of healthcare, they must first have worked at Wal-Mart for over two years.

The healthcare plans often do not cover many doctors' visits, and the premiums are often very high. Between offering poor healthcare and low salaries, according to the Center for Community & Corporate Ethics, "Wal-Mart's low prices come with very high costs, including over \$1.5 billion annually in federally subsidies for employee health care, food stamps, and housing"

See Walmart, Pg. 6

Could justice be the end of society?

By Stuart Thompson
Whalesong contributor

Government genius James Madison stated, "Justice is the end of government. It is the end of civil society." Why would he say that?

Too many people think the top purpose of justice is enforcing restitution or punishment for wrongdoing. Unfortunately, this fuels frivolous or destructively selfish use of legal systems. In reality, the top purpose of justice is exposing all that occurred, regarding both the wrongs and the

wrongdoers, and spreading this truth all about. Results can ultimately exceed the combined worth of money and imprisoned or executed criminals. Furthermore, abuse of legal procedure, dishonesty, and secrecy, coming from either hiding wrongdoing or government prosecution of it, often collaterally causes more damage than the original wrong. Such elements attack the desire for quality cooperation that makes civilization work. Evidence of these elements also helps identify important targets for police or military

action.

Thus a forum to obtain such justice, exposing all relevant truth, is probably humanity's most universal social desire. Our country has much experience with judicial system success, and familiarity with justice abuses. So why is our government defending use of its "enemy combatant" status, which avoids applying our justice power to the war on terror? Why isn't our help building justice infrastructure deployed internationally as energetically as our military is deployed?

Two Dudes

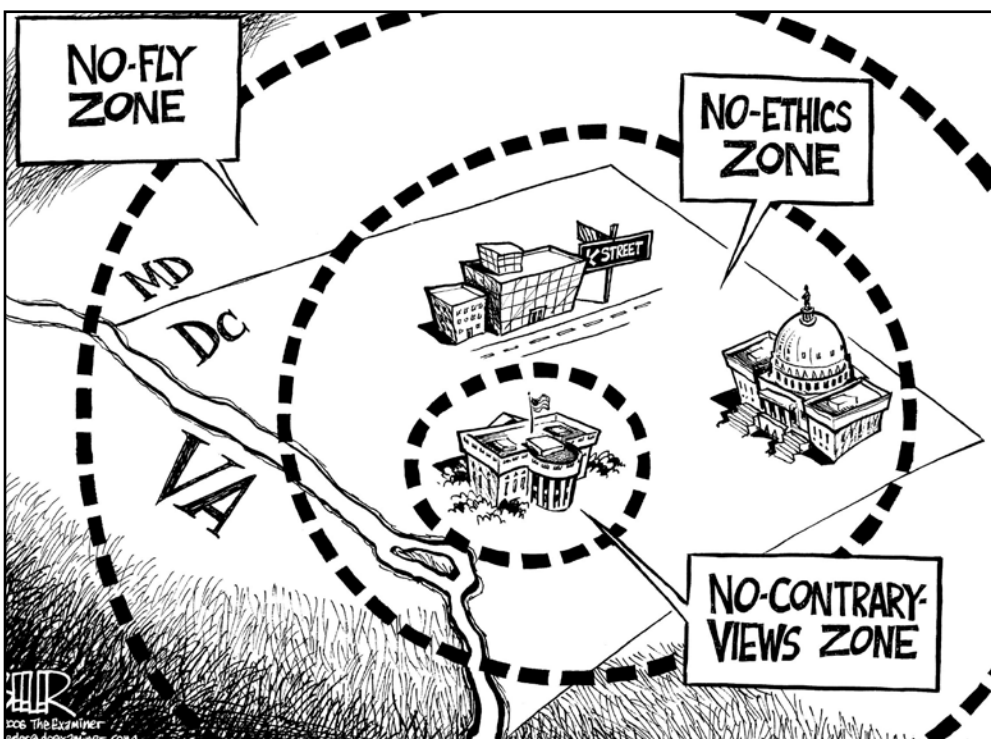


... AND I'LL FINALLY GET TO SHOW THEM THEY CAN'T GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING THEY WANT!



by Aaron Warner

Editorial cartoons



From Mercury, Pg. 1

by the American consuming public.

How much is too much?

A major concern with the dosage of methylmercury is the effect on mothers and their unborn babies and young children. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) website, "High levels of mercury in the blood stream of unborn babies and young children may harm the developing nervous system."

mother's consumption of methylmercury contaminated fish, can adversely affect a baby's growing brain and nervous system. Impacts on the cognitive thinking, memory, attention, language, and fine motor and visual-spatial skills have been found in children exposed to moderate levels in the womb."

So which one should the American public believe? How much fish should the average person eat a week? To make matters worse the U.S. Tuna Foundation (USTF) has other ideas re-



Mercury could be a health risk to those who are eating seafood with high levels of Methylmercury

For those concerned with the definition of "high levels," the FDA states that anything over 12 ounces a week could be potentially dangerous, and those eating over 12 ounces a week should rework their diet. The FDA also states that there are four kinds of fish that shouldn't be eaten due to the high levels of methylmercury: shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish. White albacore tuna is also high in methylmercury and should be eaten rarely, no more than six ounces a week.

garding methylmercury. Light canned tuna has low levels of methylmercury and according to the USTF's website, "canned tuna is completely safe but also, it is one of the healthiest foods that a growing child can eat." Granted fish has omega-3 fatty acid, which is important for early childhood brain development, but is it worth the risk of methylmercury contamination, which can cause brain damage?

The FDA believes that high-level dosage will hurt unborn babies and young children; the EPA believes that even a low dosage could have an affect. The USTF believes that as long as you are eating their canned tuna, all will be fine. So should the public worry about high or low-level dosage? Perhaps the best advice would be to avoid seafoods that contain high levels of mercury and concentrate on those that don't, such as salmon, halibut and crab.

To help the public in identifying fish with high levels of methylmercury, there is a seafood risk calculator at <http://www.jamesmccoy.com>.

*high-level dosage
will hurt unborn
babies and young
children*

However, there is a contradiction in facts between the FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the EPA's website, "Even low levels of mercury exposure in the womb, which can result from a

From Walmart, Pg. 4

Though Wal-Mart has outsourced over 1 million jobs to China, they still claim to be an all-American company, one that has the consumer's best interests at heart. Are we supposed to believe that a corporation that underpays workers, outsources jobs, uses sweat shops, and costs the federal government billions of dollars a year, is the "all-American corporation?" I think not.

When Wal-Mart comes to Juneau, we may very well see stores that make Juneau small and special, like Superbear and Don Abel, close under the pressure and competition of Wal-Mart.

To think that Wal-Mart won't out-compete smaller local stores is foolish. According to the Center for Community & Corporate Ethics, "Ten years after expanding Wal-Mart operations in Iowa, 555 competing grocery stores had closed plus 298 hardware stores, 293 building supply stores, and 116 pharmacies."

We don't need Wal-Mart in Juneau. We don't need to be like every other place in the U.S. Our consumer needs



Walmart has infiltrated the world. This is a map of all of the wal-marts in the lower 48 states.

are more than met at Fred Meyer, Superbear, and all the other stores that we already have here in Juneau. Don't let Wal-Mart tell you what's best for your community; only you can do that. Many communities across the country have pushed to have Wal-Mart leave, having seen the damage that this super-corporation can have on their towns.

Recently, a documentary was

produced called "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price." This feature-length documentary exposes Wal-Mart's corporate policies, its worker treatment, outsourcing, and the story behind Wal-Mart. The film played here in Juneau in December to sold-out crowds at the Goldtown Nickelodeon.

A second showing of the film is

scheduled here at the university in February. Please keep an eye out for posters and advertisements for the screening.

Now is the chance for us as a community to discuss what we really want and decide what actions and steps need to be taken to keep Juneau from falling to the corporate superpower that is Wal-Mart. 🐋

From Women's safety, Pg. 1

which defines rape as "forced vaginal, oral and anal sex."

However, some students feel differently when it comes to safety and UAS. "I have never felt safer," said Kirsten Longmeier, who is currently attending UAS and living on campus. "Honestly, I feel extremely safe here." Longmeier attributes her feelings of safety to the fact that Juneau's crime rate is extremely low.

Yet, both Longmeier and Gora feel that more information regarding crimes against women needs to be visible, information assuring abused women that coming forward is the right thing to do. After all, according to DOJ, sexual crimes against women are the most likely crimes of all to go unreported, an issue CVPP will most likely address. 🐋

UAS's Crime Statistics:

2002: 3 burglaries, 97 liquor law violations

2003: 25 liquor law violations, 3 drug law violations, 1 illegal weapons violation

2004: 27 liquor law violations, 2 drug law violations, 2 illegal weapons violations



Photo by Alex Marvel

Chelsea Donaldson is a student at UAS where concerns for women's safety are high. UAS has a plan to rectify their concern by applying for a \$200,000 grant.

Tips to students for staying safe on campus

Health Library: Personal Safety
MyStudentHealthZone.com
(KRT)

Staying safe at college doesn't mean abandoning your normal life. It means being smart _ being aware of risky behaviors and situations and how to avoid them. Ultimately, you're responsible for your own safety and should take steps to protect yourself.

Tips for staying safe at school

All colleges and universities that participate in federal student aid programs are legally required to make campus crime statistics available to students and staff. You can get this information from:

- your college
- the U.S. Department of Education, which collects statistics from more than 6,000 schools
- the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program, which includes data for about 400 schools
- an organization called Security on Campus, which publishes a "Campus Safety" brochure

Be sure to check out the safety of the surrounding community. "On-campus" crime statistics often only cover classrooms, dorms, and common areas, not off-campus housing, clubs, fraternity/sorority houses, or downtown areas.

Safe Campuses Now and Security on Campus offer the following tips:

- Understand your surroundings. Determine the safest routes to your classes, the dining hall, and anywhere else you go regularly. Look for open, well-lit, and well-traveled areas.

Carry a cell phone if possible, and make sure it's programmed with the telephone number for campus security.

- Never walk alone, especially at night. Travel in a group. At night, call a cab or take a campus bus or shuttle. If you study late or work a late shift alone, check in periodically with a friend. And call a campus security escort to see you home safely.

- Make sure your roommate, friends, and parents know your daily schedule and telephone number. If you go on a date or to the student union for a late snack, let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.

If you live off campus, apply these same safety standards to student apartment complexes or other living arrangements.

Living in a dormitory, residence hall, or apartment carries additional safety considerations:

- Do the locks work on the doors and windows? Does your door have a deadbolt lock? What about a peephole? If you have a choice, choose a card-access system for your door, which provides more security than standard locks and keys.

- Keep your door locked, whether you're home or away, and don't give anyone your key. Even if a roommate asks you to leave a door unlocked, don't.

If you live on the first or second floor, lock your windows and close your blinds, too. And report any propped-open exit doors to your security desk.

- Check whether your dorm has a central entrance monitored throughout the day and night. Showing your ID at the front desk may seem like a hassle, but it protects you and everyone else in the dorm. Don't let anyone else use your ID card to gain entrance to a dorm or classroom building.

- Know your neighbors. If you notice any suspicious or illegal behavior, don't be afraid to report it.

- Be cautious when it comes to phone numbers. Don't leave your name on your answering machine or voice-mail message and program your dorm and cell phones with emergency numbers.

- Don't get on an elevator if someone on board makes you feel uneasy. When you enter an elevator, stand next to the controls. And if you're riding the elevator with a person who

makes you uncomfortable, don't get off on your floor take the elevator to a floor where you know you'll find other people.

- If you ever need help, shout specific words like "Help," "Fire," or "Police." If you just scream, someone may misinterpret the noise and just assume there's a wild party down the hall.

Safety in special situations

Being in control means you are constantly aware of your surroundings and the people around you. It means making careful decisions about intimate relationships and stopping if a partner says "no."

Being in control also rules out excessive drinking, doing drugs, driving if you've been drinking, and getting into a car driven by anyone who has been drinking.

Alcohol and drug use in particular have serious implications for personal safety. Staying away from situations that involve drugs and excessive drinking can keep you from getting into potentially risky situations in the first place. For instance, steering clear of the drinking and drug scene may help you avoid harmful scenarios such as binge drinking or date rape. (Some students who have been sexually assaulted had their drinks spiked with "date rape drugs" that altered their awareness and ability to defend themselves.)

To feel more in control if you do ever face a dangerous situation, you may want to learn how to defend yourself. Many campuses offer self-defense classes that teach you how to deal with an attacker. These classes may also give you tips on how to feel safer on campus. When you have the knowledge and tools to protect yourself, you will be able to feel confident and secure at school. After all, the goal is to be safe, not scared.

Solutions

Crossword is on page 11.



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B	E	A	D	Y		S	E	N	T		S	L	E	D

Two Nights, Countless Memories

Prepare to be breathless...



Centennial Hall Feb. 16-17, 7 P.M.

Students \$8 each night or \$15 for both
Community \$12 each night or \$20 for both
Tickets at the door only. Sponsored by Student Gov.

Student features "I'm always saying something that's just the edge of something more." Robert Frost

Student government hears student voices

By Jess Coleman
The Whalesong

Behind the scenes at UAS, a crew of students has been working tirelessly to bring you representation, among other things.

Many students may not be aware of all that the student government representatives do, or the time and energy commitment that these individuals put out to make things happen. The main goal of student government is to bring representation for the students so the students have a say in the management and goals of the campus.

Whether it is for looser parking regulations in the winter, or constructing a sky bridge to the Anderson Building for safer passage for commuting students, all student issues are channeled through the student government.

Many issues are brought in front of the senate to be discussed from a "students" point of view. Whether it is for looser parking regulations in the winter, or constructing a sky bridge to the Anderson Building for safer passage for commuting students, all student issues are channeled through the student government. Senators work for no compensation while facing stressful situations and tough decisions on a daily basis.

Beyond representing the student body, student government hosts a plethora of events including the Legislative Conference, Winter X Games, Banff Film Fest, and the winter games Feb. 11-17 in addition to numerous other student-oriented events. The Legislative Conference is always a big event. This year some of the main top-

ics will be drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and its effects on Alaska's future, the declining numbers in Alaska of people in the age group 20 to 35, maintaining cultural heritage and representation throughout the state, and utilization of the state surplus. Student government is urging student participation. The conference will be held Feb. 11-14, RSVP to 907-796-6517 by Feb. 2.

fill out a FAFSA form as every year millions of dollars go unclaimed.

Vice President William Andrews is heading up an effort to get all students to fill out a FAFSA form, as every year millions of dollars go unclaimed. A workshop will be held on Fridays for the month of February, in which students will be assisted in filling out their FAFSA forms, and questions will be answered concerning the program. Free pizza and drinks will be available to students.

Student government set many goals for the year and many are now being realized. In early meetings of the year President Cachet Garrett set a goal of achieving a legacy. What could the student government of this academic year be remembered for?

Be on the look-out for good things from this group. To become involved in student government, whether you are looking for full commitment as there are 4 seats available, or just to be heard, stop by the office anytime in the downstairs of the Maurant Building by student activities and housing. Application packets can be picked up at activities and housing. Senators Lindsey Forrest, Christin Howard, Jenn Legat as well as President Cachet Garrett and Vice President William Andrews will be happy to assist.

www.uas.alaska.edu/gov/student/



www.uas.alaska.edu

Dive into ice cold water just to say that you have done so.

Polar Bear Plunge



Auke Bay Dock Feb. 11 @ noon
T-Shirts for all who jump.... **AND SURVIVE!!**

Ice climbing introduces students to Juneau wonder

By Stefan Ricci
The Whalesong

The streaking colors of techy fabrics, bright faces flush with exertion, and the bustle of movement stand in relief against the stone gray of the sky and gently falling snow, while the dull scrape of metal against ice, the swish of nylon, and the clank of carabiners all tug at the morning silence before being lost in the glacial expanse. This was the scene at the foot of the Mendenhall Glacier on Saturday Jan. 21 as members of "Introduction to Ice Climbing" readied themselves for their first swings of an ice ax.

The course is designed to provide students with instruction in the basic techniques of roped climbing, including standard knots, belay techniques, and establishing anchors, along with skills specific to ice climbing that range from the proper clothing, to the best way to wield an ice ax and crampons. The students will split their time between the class-room and the field, which typically involves three day-long outings.

Now in its sixth year, "Introduction to Ice Climbing" continues to be one of the more popular of the many outdoor recreation classes offered each spring at UAS as part its Outdoor Studies (ODS) program.

When asked of its appeal, adjunct professor Jacek Maselko—an active local climber who first broached the idea of such a class to school administrators and has been teaching it since its inception—said simply "Because it's fun."

With the unseasonably warm temperatures that prevailed throughout most of January, the frozen waterfalls that are the preferred destinations on outings were still streaming wet and out of condition. Fortunately, what Juneau sometimes lacks in cold it makes up for in glaciers, and the Jan. 21 outing had the class heading, instead, to the Mendenhall Glacier where there is always plenty of ice.

After an hour-long hike to the edge of the glacier, students fitted themselves with harnesses, helmets, and crampons before venturing on to the Mendenhall. Following a brief clinic on safety, they made their way a short distance across the ice to a depression beneath a steep ramp of ice.

Belayed on top rope—a rope running

See Ice, Pg. 12



Photo Ben Stihl

Ice climbing is one of the more popular offerings of the UAS Outdoor Studies program.



Photo Ben Stihl

UAS tudents must learn quickly, or they don't get out!

Activities & Events



What's happening at the Rec. Center?

Intramural Sports have begun.

Mondays: *Ultimate Frisbee*

Thursdays: *Indoor Soccer*

*Outdoor gear rentals are available, take
Advantage of where you are living today.*

**Super Bowl Sunday at the SAC
1:30-5:30 P.M**

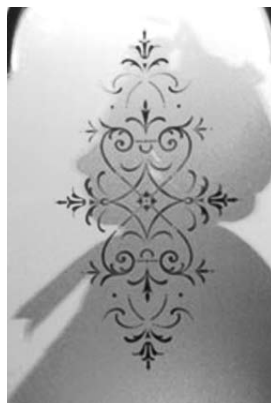


Watch for Banff Film Fest
Centennial Hall Feb. 16-17



<http://movies.yahoo.com/movie/1808728087/photo/stills>

Emma Thompson stars in the film "Nanny McPhee." This movie is considered a little more dangerous than "Mary Poppins."



"Nanny McPhee" is like "Mary Poppins"

By Chris Hewitt
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)


Imaginative and funny, "Nanny McPhee" resembles a Julie Andrews film festival, without Andrews.

Like "Mary Poppins," the movie's about a magical, no-nonsense British governess, and, like "The Sound of Music," she shows up at the doorstep of a distracted widower to whip his seven naughty children into shape. Based on books originally published in the mid-'60s, "Nanny McPhee" plays like a loving tribute to those Andrews characters that attempts to make them a little more dangerous. Which is why, unlike gentle Mary Poppins, Nanny McPhee is scarycalifragilisticexpialidocious.

Although Andrews' specter hangs over the movie like the children's guilotine perched over the heads of their dolls, the MVP is Emma Thompson. She wrote it and brings warmth, wisdom and a spoonful of vinegar to her performance in the title role (not that you'll recognize her under the warts and the Mediterranean dockworker unibrow). Thompson's script is rooted in the belief that all kids are potentially good and that they can usually solve their own problems if someone like

Nanny McPhee sends them down the right path with a few skeptical looks and significant "hmmphs."

"Nanny McPhee" hints at magic, her walking stick seems to have special powers, and it's suggested she was sent by the children's late mother. But the magic is really a metaphor for aspects of the world that are mysterious to young people, like bedtimes, the behavior of adults or the death of a beloved mother, whose keenly felt absence gives the movie depth and heart. There's a child's-eye quality to "Nanny McPhee," with its Crayolas-gone-mad color scheme and its matter-of-fact acceptance that plenty of stuff happens for which there is no reasonable explanation.

There is, however, a good explanation for why "Nanny McPhee" will appeal to moviegoers: its "Supernanny"-like belief that teaching children is also about teaching their parents (the closing credits inform us, "This film is dedicated to the truly naughty. And their children."). Whereas most children's films imply that young people only deserve movies that are loud and stupid, this one respects their intelligence and interests. It says that the smallest of us deserve entertainment of the highest order. 

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) invites you to a

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Watch the Big Game on the Big Screen!

Steelers vs. Seahawks

Sunday, Feb. 5

1:30 p.m. @ SAC



FREE entry, pizza & snacks for all SAA members!

Check the back of your student ID for your green SAA sticker.

\$5 for non-SAA members.
Additional \$5 for non-Rec Center Members.

University of Alaska Southeast
STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Contact the Alumni Office at
796-6569 for more info

www.uas.alaska.edu/alumni

Coming to theaters

By Stephen Becker
The Dallas Morning News
(KRT)

Opening Feb. 3:

THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA - Tommy Lee Jones directs himself as a man trying to fulfill a promise to his dead friend. The film was a favorite at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

A GOOD WOMAN - Helen Hunt, Tom Wilkinson and Scarlett Johansson star in this big-screen adaptation of the Oscar Wilde play.

SOMETHING NEW - Romantic comedy follows the path of a career-oriented woman looking for love in LA.

IMAGINE ME & YOU - A bride finds the potential love of her life at her wedding. Unfortunately, it's not the groom.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS - Remake of the 1979 thriller about a baby sitter being terrorized over the phone.

Take a stab at this crossword

Want Ads

Across

1. Touch down

5. Worn out

9. Tel Aviv-__

14. African lily

15. Olin or Horne

16. Manmade fabric

17. Laura or Bruce

18. Like mother-of pearl

20. Sprinkle with powder

21. In addition

22. Changes, as a timer

23. Much inclined

25. Old Peruvian

27. June honorees

29. Lends a hand

35. Slalom

38. Edge

39. Nationalist

40. Zodiac sign

42. Actor Marlin

43. Olympics site of 1996

45. Pub serving

46. Rep. letters

47. Make a second appearance

48. Malevolent stare

50. Scottish loch

52. “__ Delicate condition”

56. Jostled

61. __ the question

63. Encounter

64. “Rocky” co-star

66. Gilbert or Teasdale

67. City on the Rhone River delta

68. Persian Gulf country

69. Land of Blarney and Killarney

70. Like some eyes

71. E-mailed

72. Snow coaster

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18				19					
20					21				22					
23				24		25		26						
			27		28			29		30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37		38				39						
40			41					42						
43						44		45				46		
47								48			49			
					50		51			52		53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60			61		62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			
70						71					72			

Answers on page 7

Down

1. Alan and Cheryl

2. Native Alaskan

3. Scandinavians

4. Pockmarked

5. Narrow cut

6. Bravery

7. Stew veggie

8. Abe’s boy

9. San __, CA

10. Parabolas

11. Make tracks

12. Typeface

13. Porch raiders

19. Like pencil marks

24. Allowance provider

26. Lid

28. Swells out

30. “Silkwood” star

31. Levin or Gershwin

32. Belt out

33. Busy person’s list

34. Come to a standstill

35. Ship’s pole

36. Flying toy

37. Capri or Man

41. Fire

44. Exist

45. Losing competitor

49. Exodus pharaoh

51. Steeple top

53. Oyster yield

54. Eagle’s home

55. Put up with

56. Piercing pain

57. Tortoise’s competitor

58. __ podrida

59. Competed (for)

60. “__ Rider”

62. House opening

65. Howdy-dos

Needed:
Someone to relieve me of my sins.

Wanted:
Plastic bottle that is safe to drink out of and is easy to carry. Please call 555-1H20

Wanted:
Gorgeous female prepared for innocent excitement!

Wanted:
Intelligent governor that knows the laws who can actually help the state.

Wanted:
Someone to set all the clocks in the university ahead by five minutes so that I can make it to class on time.

Wanted:
A hot young stud to accompany me to a Valentine’s dinner. Must call me Pooky. Call 555-LOVE

Wanted:
Large candy heart filled with chocolates. Must have several different types of fillings. Call 555-CHOC

Wanted:
I am looking for a giving person who is willing to buy me a car. Call 555-1CAR if you are interested.

Missing:
My class schedule. I can’t find any of my classes. If found throw it away.

Missing:
My boyfriend is missing. Said he was going to buy milk and never came back. If found throw him into the icy cold waters of Auke Lake.

Stolen:
My heart was stolen by some jerk. I want it back.

Found:
The keys to a Maserati. If you want them back call 555-TOBAD.

Found:
The answers to this weeks crossword puzzle on page 7.

Found:
One broken heart. Looks shattered and irreparable.

From Ice, Pg. 9

through an anchor above, leaving both ends free below for a climber and a belayer—individual students began hacking their way up the ice. Once exposed to basic techniques on this off-vertical wall, those willing were then lowered from a snowy shelf into the penetrating blue of a crevasse. With the metal points of ice axes and crampons biting securely into the ice behind the force of arcing swings and sturdy kicks, students clawed their way up 35 shimmering feet of 90-degree ice while Masleko and his teaching assistants offered instruction from above.

Upon emerging from the crevasse, Evan Fritz was a little winded from the exertion, but was obviously enjoying himself. Some students view the experience of the course as self contained and are unlikely to further pursue the sport. In contrast, Fritz, who needed special permission to participate in the class since he is a junior at Juneau Douglas High School, wants to con-

tinue developing his climbing skills. Having taken “Introduction to Rock Climbing” this past fall, he is intent on completing all UAS courses that are climbing related. With his brother Trevor, a UAS freshman also a member of the class, he feels like he has a partner in crime.

A frequent face at the ice climbing outings, and also along on this one, is ODS program director and UAS philosophy professor Kevin Krein. Through his experience with students Krein has come to believe that “A lot of students want to gain an understanding of how it [climbing] works; what it is all about.”

Many students have been exposed, in one way or another, to the idea of climbing and often have a curious fascination with the sport. Visiting exchange students Lucas Baranovic and Stanley Nuegent, from Colorado and California respectively, both offered that a big part of the attraction to the class was the element of adventure



Photo Ben Stihl

UAS students can learn to climb glacier ice. Many see it as a unique Alaskan experience.

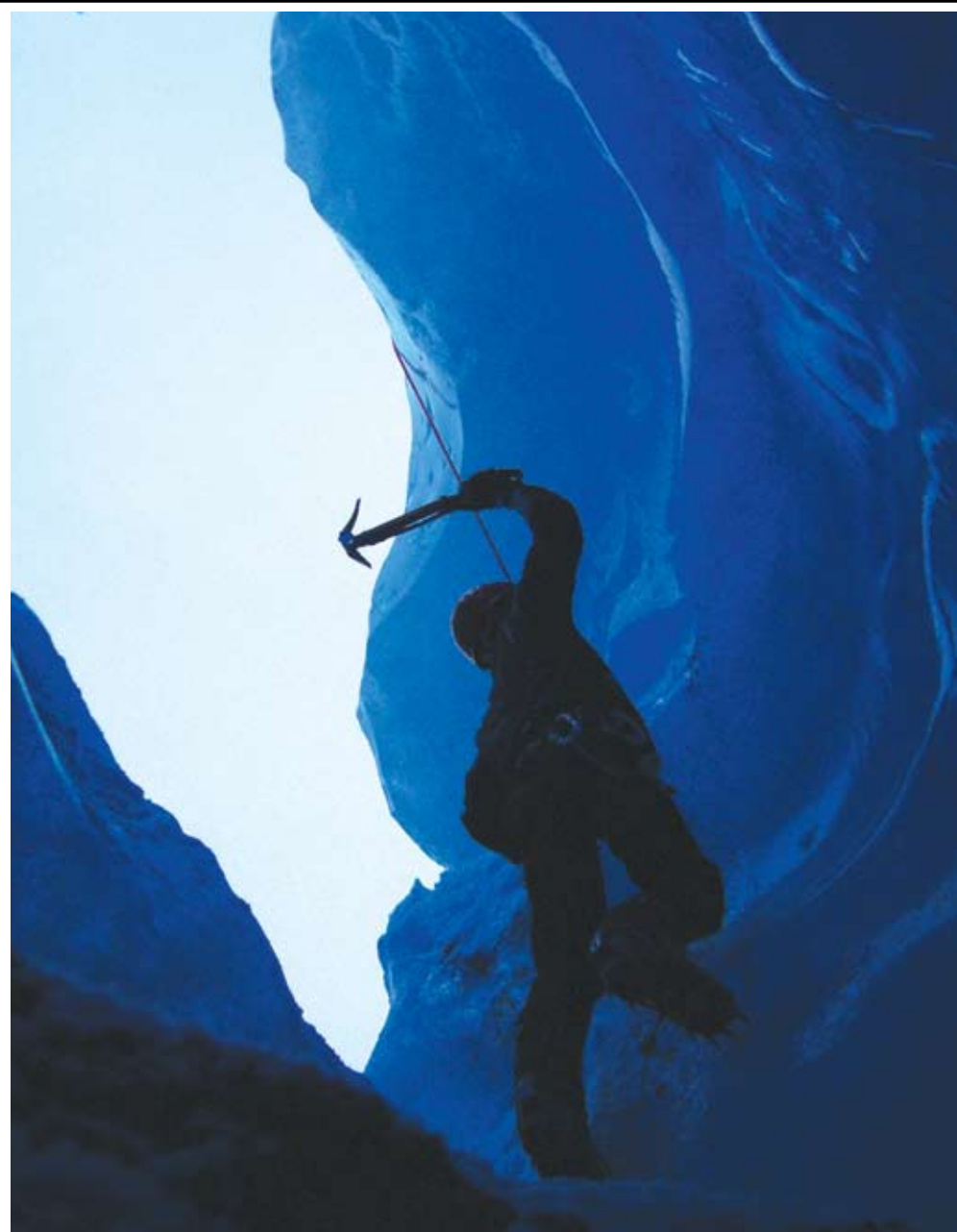


Photo Ben Stihl

The mystical environment of glacier innards

involved in the process.

Krein also noted that “Juneau can be such a difficult place to live” and like any member of the community, when students embrace the unique opportunities the area presents they are more likely to enjoy their time here.

Among this year’s students, reasons for taking the class vary, but a common thread among the exchange students was of an urge to sample as much of the Alaskan experience as they could in their time here, and ice climbing is certainly a part of this.

Juneau’s abundant rainfall and the abrupt relief of its mountains combine to create the scores of cascades that are so much a part of the idyllic local environment. To the ice climber, however, the appealing contrast of frothy white water against the lush green of a mountainside that makes these waterfalls so distinct in the summer is happily traded for the dull blend of gray on white that comes with the cold of winter.

Former UAS student and climber

Ryan Johnson says that ascending the frozen flows, some of which in Juneau approach 1000 feet in height, can be a demanding, yet exhilarating experience. The ability to safely and efficiently execute a climb on the most difficult of the local routes involves a complex set of skills that often take a substantial investment of time and energy to develop. Nonetheless, participation in the sport can be rewarding and fun at any level. “Introduction to Ice climbing”, says Krein, is designed to give students completing it the ability to go out on their own, establish a top rope on a short waterfall or steep section of glacial ice, and climb it in the same fashion as they do in the class outings.

Though light rain and snow continued to fall throughout the day, it did little to dampen the mood of class members. As they hiked back to their vehicles at the end of a long day, the students made plans for their next outing the following week. 🐾